

MEDICAL DISEASES OF WAR. By Sir Arthur Hurst. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 18s.

IN this book the author has collected most of the medical diseases met with in the fighting forces. It will therefore be useful to medical members of the fighting services in particular, for in a few minutes they can refer to a book which is almost sure to contain the information they require. This may well be one of the reasons why the book has already entered its second edition. The author has chosen experts to help him in some of the most specialised subjects, and the *tout ensemble* makes a very readable book. The first thirteen chapters are devoted to functional nervous disorders. This may seem a lot, but in view of mistakes made in the last war in the treatment of these, and indeed of the failure to recognise these even at present, Sir Arthur Hurst's experience at Seale Hayne in the last war and after are a timely publication. There is a chapter by the late T. A. Ross on anxiety neurosis of war. This is excellent, and makes one realise the loss this author's death has made to practical psychology. There is also a chapter on the effort syndrome.

On the organic side, chapters are devoted to infectious and contagious fevers, including the more common tropical diseases. Digestive disorders, epidemic jaundice, nephritis, and tetanus are well considered, and Dr. A. W. Barber writes a very helpful chapter on skin diseases of war. This should be particularly valuable to those in charge of evacuees, as all skin disorders so prone to occur in this section of the community are discussed. The last chapter is devoted to the treatment of gas-poisoning. Criticisms are few, but the chapter on cerebral and spinal concussion might be improved. It is unfortunate that the words "shell-shock" should be mentioned, and even to justify its use in certain cases. The more modern term "blast" should commend itself, so that the use of the former term might be forgotten for ever. More of the physical signs in cerebral concussion would have been helpful, as little is yet known of the acute stage of this condition. Spinal concussion is treated better.

The book is of a handy size and the references are many. In spite of its price, it is a book to be recommended.

DISEASES OF THE NOSE, THROAT, AND EAR. By T. Simson Hall. Second Edition. 15s. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone.

To quote from the preface to the first edition, the above is an effort to provide a textbook "for the busy practitioner and the student."

The result of this attempt is a well-written and profusely illustrated volume of most reasonable dimensions. The various diseases are adequately and clearly described, and in controversial matters extreme views are avoided.

The section on otitis media and mastoiditis is of particular merit, and one reads the very clear description of the diseases of the accessory nasal sinuses with pleasure. But it is disappointing to find how little the author has to say about the artificial aids to hearing, and how the deaf patient may be helped to overcome his disability—matters on which the practitioner would welcome information.

In the account of sulphanilamide therapy, though the author stresses the danger that the clinical signs of mastoiditis may be masked when this potent remedy is exhibited, and condemns what he terms the irrational employment of the drug, he does not make clear how it may most wisely be used, or how the doctor may avoid the pitfalls mentioned. Though he tells us that an attempt should be made to determine the organism responsible for the infection, it is not indicated how this knowledge is to influence our choice of remedy.

The often recurring phrase "full doses of sulphanilamide" could be replaced by more precise instructions as to what constitutes a full dose in adults and in children, or how the body-weight might influence the dosage. This section might well be expanded in future editions, perhaps at the expense of the pages devoted to acute coryza.

But these criticisms in no way detract from the merits of a most attractive and readable book, which should be a most useful and interesting addition to the practitioner's library.